



# The Communist Manifesto

Entrance task: Think: Do you agree or disagree with the ideas of Marx and Engels? Be specific.

Today: The Communist Manifesto

Homework: Chart, Begin Ch. 23-3

Adam Smith

1:09



Karl Marx

3:22



The Wealth of Nations	Major Writing	Communist Manifesto
Capitalism	Economic principle	Communism
Private ownership of the means of production Profits belong to the owners Government should have NO involvement in the economy - Laissez-faire The "invisible hand" of competition	Key points	Government ownership of all property & industry Profits belong to the government to be shared with workers (proletariat) A command economy Will occur after a violent revolution of the proletariat against the bourgeoisie

## Group 1:

1. Summarize the main ideas of *The Communist Manifesto*.
2. What does Marx mean when he speaks of the 'bourgeois' and the 'proletarians'.
3. Do you see Marx primarily as a revolutionary agitator or a philosopher trying to predict the future?
4. What are the strengths of Marx's presumptions regarding communist?

## Group 2:

1. Summarize the main ideas of *The Communist Manifesto*.
2. What is the function of the Communists as a working-class party?
3. How does Marx explain 'the theory of the Communists'?
4. How practical a program of change were Marx's doctrines?

## Group 3:

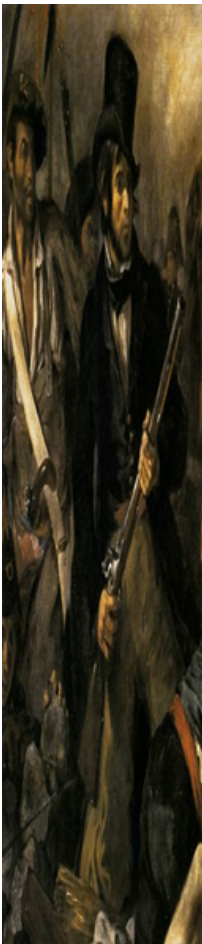
1. Summarize the main ideas of *The Communist Manifesto*.
2. How is theory to be put into action?
3. To what extent do you agree with his assertions and presumptions?
4. What are the weaknesses of Marx and Engels' assertions?

## Group 4:

1. Summarize the main ideas of *The Communist Manifesto*.
2. Do you think communism as Marx describes it is a desirable ideal, a foolish dream, a undesirable ideal, or something else? Why?
3. What do Marx and Engels mean by abolition of private property?
4. What does the last line of the *Manifesto* mean?

Group 5:

1. Summarize the main ideas of *The Communist Manifesto*.
2. How does the capitalist system work?
3. What does the Manifesto tell us about the how the proletariat changes as capitalism develops and in making the revolution?
4. Why do Marx and Engels want to abolish private property?



## The Communist Manifesto

- Historical context
- Author's thesis
- Author's purpose/agenda
- Author's point of view
- Intended audience
- Any bias?



# The Communist Manifesto

- "The history of all hitherto existing society is the history of class struggle."
- "... in a word, oppressor and oppressed stood in constant opposition to one another."
- The modern bourgeois society has ... established new forms of struggle in place of the old ones."



- "Owing to the extensive use of machinery and to division of labor, the work of the proletarians has lost all individual character, and, consequently, all charm for the workman."
- "Modern industry has converted the little workshop ... into the great factory ... masses of laborers are organized like soldiers."



"... with the development of industry the proletariat not only increase in number; it becomes concentrated in greater masses, its strength grows ..."



- "The proletarians cannot become masters of the productive forces of society, except by abolishing their own previous mode of appropriation ..."
- "The proletariat of each country must first settle matters with its own bourgeoisie."
- "The bourgeoisie ... is unfit to rule."





- "The immediate aim of the Communists is . . . the formation of the proletariat into a class, overthrow of the bourgeois supremacy, conquest of political power by the proletariat."
- ". . . the theory of the Communists may be summed up in a single sentence: Abolition of private property . . ."

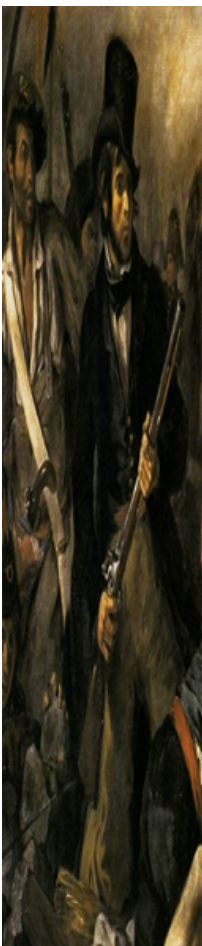


"The first step in the revolution . . is to raise the proletariat to the position of the ruling class, to win the battle of democracy."

"The proletariat will use its political supremacy to wrest . . . all capital from the bourgeoisie."



- "Political power . . . is merely the organized power of one class for oppressing another."
- "In place of the old bourgeois society with its classes and class antagonisms, we shall have an association in which the free development of each is the condition for the free development of all."



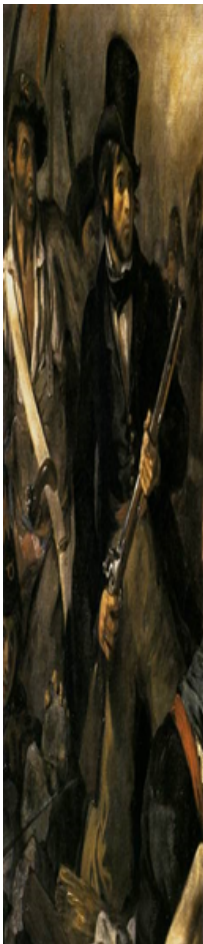
"The Communists . . . openly declare that their ends can be attained only by the forcible overthrow of all existing social conditions."

"Working men of the world, unite! You have nothing to lose but your chains!"

The Communist Manifesto, 1848

Karl Marx & Friedrich Engels

People	Response to Existing Conditions or Theories	Ideas for Change	<u>View of govt.</u>
Adam Smith			
David Ricardo			
Robert Owen			
Louis Blanc			
Karl Marx			



# Homework

- Handout - Chart



